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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/632,017

07/31/2003

Olaf Abels

71084

9343

23872 7590 02/05/2007  
MCGLEW & TUTTLE, PC  
P.O. BOX 9227  
SCARBOROUGH STATION  
SCARBOROUGH, NY 10510-9227

EXAMINER

GARCIA, ERNESTO

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3679

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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10/632 017

APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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10/632,017

EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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20070130

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Commissioner for Patents

The reply brief filed on January 11, 2007 is acknowledged.

*Daniel P. Stodola*

DANIEL P. STODOLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 71084

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : ABELS et al.  
Serial No : 10/632,017  
Confirm. No : 9343  
Filed : July 31, 2003  
For : BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINT  
Art Unit : 3679  
Examiner : Ernesto Garcia  
Dated : January 11, 2007

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Noted  
2/2/07  
DPG

REPLY BRIEF

In response to the Examiner's Answer of November 16, 2006 Applicant hereby replies.

102(b) rejection - Yao

The Examiner's Answer states that the sliding ring A1 as identified by the Examiner, which is embedded in the sealing bellows, rotates along with the sealing bellows. However, Yao fails to disclose a sliding ring that is mounted to slide in a ball race that is fixed to the ball pivot. In the present invention, the sliding ring receives the pivot-side edge of the sealing bellows (Claim 1, line 8: "a sliding ring receiving said pivot-side edge area of said sealing bellows"). The sliding ring of the present invention slides within the ball race. This is a different approach than that of Yao. In Yao, the embedded element (A1) fails to slide in the ring collar 13 since the embedded element (A1) is surrounded by the sealing bellows 8. Even